

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 06532 310759Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /079 W

----- 070419

R 310415Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6449

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 6532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SW, UN, PLO

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER PALME COMMENTS ON SWEDISH-ISRAELI RELATIONS

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 6315, (B) STOCKHOLM 6237

1. I SPOKE WITH PRIME MINISTER PALME THIS PAST WEEKEND ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT TO SWEDEN OF THE LITTLE LEAGUE ICE HOCKEY TEAM FROM TOLEDO, OHIO, WHICH PLAYED SWEDISH TEAM TO WHICH PALME'S SON BELONGS. THE PRIME MINISTER SEEMED PUT OUT BY ISRAELI REACTION TO SWEDISH VOTE EARLY THIS MONTH SUPPORTING PLO PARTICIPATION IN UNSC DEBATE ON ISRAELI BOMBING OF PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN JORDON. HE SAID ISRAELIS HAD "SPREAD RUMOR" THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR CRUCIAL SWEDISH VOTE ON PLO ISSUE, AND HE DESCRIBED THE ISRAELIS AS BEING "TOO, TOO CLEVER" IN THIS INSTANCE. PALME WENT TO SOME LENGTH TO DESCRIBE TO ME DECISION-MAKING PROCESS ON PLO ISSUE, ASSERTING THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY SENT ENTIRE FILE TO HIM FOR HIS DECISION

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 06532 310759Z

BUT THAT, AFTER STUDYING THE FILE AND REALIZING THE COM-

PLEXITY OF THE QUESTION, HE HAD RETURNED IT TO MFA WITH
RECOMMENDATION THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MAKE FINAL DECISION.

2. WE DISCUSSED RECENT NEWSWEEK ARTICLE IN WHICH I HAD
BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SWEDISH VOTE IN THIS CASE HAD
BEEN CONSISTENT WITH ITS DECISION IN OCTOBER 1974 SUPPORTING
INVITATION TO PLO TO SPEAK BEFORE THE UNGA. PALME THANKED
ME FOR MY COMMENTS, ADDING THAT QUESTION OF PLO
PARTICIPATION IN NEXT MONTHS UNSC DEBATE ON MID-EAST NOW
SEEMED ACADEMIC, SINCE ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, U.S.
IS "PRESSURING" ISRAEL TO PARTICIPATE IN DEBATE DESPITE
PLO PRESENCE. I DISCLAIM KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH
PRESSURE ON ISRAELIS.

3. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IDAN, WHO RETURNED TO SWEDEN
CHRISTMAS DAY FOLLOWING ALMOST THREE WEEKS "CONSULTATION"
IN TEL AVIV TO INDICATE DISPLEASURE AT SWEDISH UNSC VOTE
(REF B), TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT HE FELT HIS RECALL TO
ISRAEL HAD BEEN AN "IDLE EXERCISE". NOTING THAT IDEA FOR
HIS RECALL ORIGINATED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON, IDAN
SAID HE DID LITTLE OR NO CONSULTING WHILE IN TEL AVIV.
HE IMPLIED THAT PRIME MINISTER RABIN AGREED WITH HIM THAT
HIS RECALL HAD BEEN INEFFECTIVE GESTURE. (SWEDISH RADIO
QUOTED IDAN AS SAYING ON HIS RETURN THAT SWEDISH-ISRAELI
RELATIONS HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY
SWEDISH VOTE ON PLO).
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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